They are however often necessary to private persons for information regarding the existence of cart-tracks, the source of water-supply, etc., and if they are treated as confidential documents they will be deprived of this useful source of information.

The majority of the members stated that copies might be granted with a certificate that the accuracy of the record could not be guaranteed as, if the parties did not obtain the copies, they got the originals summoned by the civil courts and had them filed as exhibits.

Reply of Government.—The rules will be revised so as to authorize the grant of copies of these documents. It is to be understood that this does not imply any guarantee of the correctness of the statements or facts recorded in them.

SUBJECT No. 125.

Abolition of the Survey Department.

Mr. D. S. Hanumanta Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The abolition of the Survey Department may well be effected in connection with the present retrenchment scheme, the savings of nearly two lakhs of rupees thereby made being better utilised for other purposes in the interests of the raiyats. The Shekdars, Taluk Mojanidars and District Surveyors may be deputed to attend to the *phod* work and other survey operations.

The assessment now fixed should be made permanent and a permanent settlement introduced. All the survey records may then be given to the Deputy Commissioners and they will be able to get any necessary changes made in them with the aid of District Surveyors and Mojanidars.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

FOREST.

(Nos. 126 to 139.)

SUBJECT No. 126.

Sandal trees on occupied lands.

Messrs. Mudvira Setti, Closepet Sub-Taluk; Seenappa, Bagepalli Taluk; Vine Rangaswamiengar, Seringapatam Taluk; Linge Gowda, Madappa, Mysore Taluk; Davood Sab, Timma Setti, Mudgere Taluk; K. Rangappa, Holalkere Taluk; Mudlagiri Rao, Jagalur Taluk; Venkata Subbaiya, Surya Narayana Setty, Arkalgud Taluk; Padmarajaiya, Channarayapatna Taluk; A. Venkatachar, Hole-Narsipur Taluk, and Kesaviengar, Belur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The grant to occupants of half the profits arising from the sale of sandal trees in private holdings will be profitable to Government and save the owners from the fear of malicious prosecutions.

The right of the occupant to sandal trees on his holding may be recognized as in British Indian territory.

Sandal trees in occupied lands will thrive well if increased attention is paid to them by the occupant. At present the raiyats wilfully neglect their growth as they are the monopoly of Government. If a share of the profit derived from sandal trees be given to the occupants, they will be encouraged to pay more attention to their growth with the result that the revenue under this head will gradually increase.

A fourth of the realizations from the sale of sandal trees may be ordered to be given to occupants as it will

greatly encourage the planting of such trees in large numbers.

Instead of the land-holders being made liable for the destruction of sandal trees on occupied lands the real culprits may be traced and punished. Land-holders may be permitted to own the trees which naturally grow on their lands to the detriment of the garden cultivation, or the trees may be allowed to be destroyed so as to prevent the deterioration of their lands and save them from the clutches of subordinate officers.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 127.

(1) Reduction or abolition of seigniorage on firewood in the malnad.

(2) Seigniorage on fuel in the Shimoga District to be done away with or reduced.

Messrs. (1) Bhaskar Rao, Sorab Taluk and (2) Sitaramaiya, Shimga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) A seigniorage of four annas per cart-load of fuel is now levied in the malnad. Every poor man in the malnad requires, for his use, at least 20 cart-loads of fuel. As the present seigniorage rate is rather heavy to the poorer class of people in the malnad, it is prayed that it may be reduced from four to two annas or abolished completely.

As district jungles have not been assigned to some villages, the raiyats thereof have to obtain fuel for their domestic purposes and for sugar-cane mills on payment of a seigniorage of four annas per cart-load. As this rate is heavy, it may be reduced to two annas.

(2) This tax is heavy in the Shimoga District, especially in and about the town of Shimoga, and causes inconvenience to the public. In addition to the seigniorage, toll is also collected. The seigniorage may be either abolished altogether or reduced to one anna per cart-load.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be reduced. The purposes for which the toll and seigniorage are levied are quite distinct from each other.

SUBJECT No. 128.

Grant of jambe and bhogi trees at concession rates.

Messrs. Subrayabhatta, and Seshappa, Tirthahalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Ordinary wood does not stand the malnad weather for a long time on account of the heavy rains. It is therefore prayed that jambe and bhogi may, as before, be granted to the raiyats for their domestic use at concession rates under the Raiyats' Privileges Rules.

Reply of Government.—Further concessions cannot be granted.

SUBJECT No. 129.

(*a*) Grant of honne and bete wood without seigniorage to the raiyats for agricultural implements.

(*b*) Free grant of green wood for agricultural purposes.

(*a*) Messrs. Nadig Bhasker Rao, and Lakshmana Rao, Sorab Taluk.

(*b*) Mr. H. V. Bhima Rao, Malur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Matti is now exempt from seigniorage when it is taken by raiyats for agricultural implements. Honne and bete are also often used for this purpose. As implements made of other trees are not durable, it is requested that the present concession may be extended in the case of honne and bete trees.

(*b*) (i) The existing rate of seigniorage on firewood is very high. It may be slightly reduced.